

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system and method for authenticating and authorizing computer users with a single, standard, directory-based set of applications. The invention combines dynamic directory services (DDS) with a directory access protocol such as the light weight directory access protocol (LDAP) to provide authentication and application-authorization for secured networks, applications, and programs. Dynamic information such as session information or user ID numbers is stored in a directory each time a user logs into the systems and is maintained in the directory until the user logs out. While the information exists in the directory, it can be queried by other programs, applications, or networks that use a directory service to authenticate or authorize the user for the program, application, or network.